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AP
JFW

Applicant : John MacAlister
TITLE : A MOUNT
Serial No. : 09/905,261
Filing Date : 13 July 2001
Examiner/Unit : Nasser Ahmad / 1772

Appeal Brief

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The Applicant herewith submits an amended appeal brief in response to the Notification of a Non-Compliant Brief, mailed 8th September, 2006.

The Appellant would refer the Board of Appeal to the history of the application, in which little or no change has had to be made to the application due to arts cited previously but, rather, each time, the rejections have been withdrawn as the Appellant has been able to clarify the proper interpretation of the cited arts. Therefore :

In the hope that it might be of use in any deliberations concerning the USPTO's new pre-appeal review procedure, the Appellant wishes it to be known that, while it might not likely have made a case for a hearing under the pre-appeal review procedure, he has been quite dismayed that the Examiner has chosen to cite, sequentially over 4 years, prior arts some of which were disclosed by the Applicant before the first Office Action, in 2002. Treglown (GB2333050), for example, was disclosed in July 2002, as soon as the UK Patent Office had cited (and withdrawn) it – see GB2,369,601B. The Examiner cited GB2333050 in November 2005, having first considered it on 12/01/2002 and failed to cite it at that time.

For information, the chronology of the citing of arts is shown in the "Evidence" section of this brief, pp 20, 21.

Submitted by

John MacAlister, 28th September, 2006



Appeal : application 09/905,261

Appeal Brief

Application : 09/905, 26

Title : A Mount

Filing Date : July 13th, 2001

Applicant : John MacAlister

Examiner : Nasser Ahmad

Art Unit : 1772

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Real Party of Interest

The real party of interest in application 09/905, 261, is the inventor and Applicant in the matter, John MacAlister, of Clockhouse 1, Rookery Park, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3HQ, UK.

Related Appeals and Interferences

None

Status of Claims

Page 6 shows the current status of the claims for 09/905,261

Broadly, all claims which have not been cancelled have had the rejections in view of Su et al withdrawn, to be replaced by rejections due to Wilkins or/and Treglown.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Item	Status		
Claim 1			
2	Cancelled		
3	Cancelled		
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10	Cancelled		
11	Cancelled		
12	Cancelled		
13	Cancelled		
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19	Cancelled		
20	Cancelled		
21	Cancelled		
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23	Cancelled		
24	Cancelled		
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29	Cancelled		
30	Cancelled		
31			
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38			
39			
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41			

KEY	Rejection in last Office Action - 35 USC 112 withdrawn
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 102(e) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Now Rejected - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Treglown

Status of Amendments

No amendments have been made following, or as a result of, the most recent (final) rejection.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The subject matter in the independent claims involved in the appeal can be found as shown below

CLAIM

"1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive. "

Related material:

Under "Brief Summary of the Invention", page 1, col 2, please see paragraph 0017, et seq., which introduces the concept, supported by para 0028, which expands on the use of cling properties to adhere the invention to glass, while 0035 gives detail on the achievement of optimum "cling" properties to adhere the mount to glass.

Fig 4, the illustration used on the front page of the application, clearly shows a plurality of the mount, 5, for attaching a first material, 7, such as paper, to a second material such as glass, 8.

Paragraphs 0030 – 0032 discuss the use of adhesive on the second side of the invented mount, which will then adhere the mount to a first material, enabling the device, using the untreated opposing, first, surface, to mount the first material, usually paper, to glass.

As to the mount, in the claim, attaching "to part of the surface of a sheet object", paragraphs 0037-0039 and 0041 make clear the route to the present dimensions and shapes detailed in dependent claims such as claim 5, 14-16

These dimensional considerations are expanded on in claims 26 and 35.

Other dependent claims, 4, 25,36, 40 and 41 refer to the fact that the mount is intended to be placed between the first material, typically a paper sheet object and the second material, such as glass, by detailing that the adhesive-coated side and the untreated "cling" side of the mount are mutually opposite and the mount is flat – which is discussed in 0027.

CLAIM

- 36.** A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
- releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and
 - securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

Related material:

The invention of the mount is clearly associated with its use, which like the mount, is also claimed to be novel. ie, if no-one has invented a mount which uses adhesive on one side and "cling" on the other to mount paper to glass, the method is also new.

This claimed new method of mounting a sheet object, such as paper, to a second surface such as glass, is in claim 36 and associated claims 37-40 and discussed in the specification at paragraph 0017 and in Fig 4 and its description on page 4, paragraph 0059.

.Grounds of Objection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The Appellant requests that the following grounds be reviewed on appeal:

1. Whether claims 25-28, 33-40 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Wilkins (6038803)
2. Whether claims 1, 4-8, 16-18 and 41 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
3. Whether claims 14-15 and 31-32 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
4. Whether claims 1 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Treglown (Application GB2333050)

Argument

The Applicant will now offer his arguments to the individual rejections of groups of claims listed under "Grounds of Objection to be Reviewed on Appeal"

Overall, the Applicant contends that, particularly in the case of the cited art by Wilkins, the rejections are all underwritten by the same misunderstanding of the cited art by the Examiner and that similar arguments might therefore be applied to several of the rejections. The Applicant hopes he may be forgiven for seeming to argue, not "pro" the present application (the application does that) but "contra" the Examiner's positions.

1. Whether claims 25-28, 33-40 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Wilkins (6038803) as stated by the Examiner at item 8, Office Action of May 25th, 2005 and maintained in Office Actions of November 3rd, 2006 and 16th April 2006.

Examining first how the Examiner understands Wilkins's invention... in Office Action of May 23rd, 2005, page 3, "Claim Rejections" Item 8.

The following quote the Examiner from this Office Action:

"Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col 3, lines 50 – 60). The mount has first and second mutually opposite surfaces..."

and

"Wilkins also teaches a method for securing a first material to a second material comprising releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material (F) which is well known to be to be paper in the adhesive art, with an adhesive carried by the first surface, and securing the second surface to a second material (1) without adhesive."

Wilkins has not invented a mount. The invention is a single sheet of cling PVC with indicia printed on one side. The other side, left unprinted, is attached to the glass of an original picture the sheet is to cover. This is the fundamental invention.

Wilkins describes the material to be used for her cling-sheet:-

" The material may be a vinyl formed from a polyvinylchloride material through a well-known process. Once again the particular material used can be varied provided that the chosen material exhibits static cling to permit the decorative covering D to be electrostatically adhered over the original picture . Optionally, a tacky adhesive may be used to secure the decorative covering D to the original picture B."

Presumably, Wilkins added the last sentence to deal with the instances when the cling properties didn't work (eg, non-refeective glass? See Applicant's argument in

response to Office Action of November 2005), or when there was simply no glass in front of the picture.

The Examiner, however, seizes on what is certainly intended to be the optional, ad-hoc in-situ use of adhesive and in some way decides that Wilkins therefore pre-coats the PVC. This is not the case and cannot be shown.

This ad-hoc-used adhesive is not part of the structure. Not part of the invention and certainly not so as to inform the present application.

Wilkins never claims a mount. Never uses the word. A mount, by definition, takes one material and mounts it on another. You simply cannot use Wilkins's invented sheet to mount a second material.

Wilkins has invented a single sheet for attaching itself - and nothing else - to a glass-covered picture. This intended use results in a structure which is a self-cling single sheet with printer's ink or paints on one side (its 'front') and a clean, unprinted side (the 'back'), by which to attach itself to the existing glass-covered picture.

There is no reference in Wilkins to "having a first surface carrying an adhesive". Her patent is for a special use of the display industry's well-used technology for self-cling signs, such as "Sale" signs.

In the absence of adhesive in the specification of the structure, the Appellant contends that the tacky adhesive referred to is intended to be applied to the join between the invented sheet and the original picture on an ad-hoc basis, just as the invented sheet is being deployed on the glass OR, more significantly, in view of the Examiner's assertion, the adhesive may be applied initially to the glass and not to the invented structure. It is certainly not imported to the situation as part of the manufactured structure.

Nor is adhesive specified to adhere the protective backing. Quite the reverse... Wilkins : (Col 4, line 32) : "The protective backing may be formed from any material which can be electrostatically adhered to the decorative covering E." . This limitation is important.

It is therefore an incorrect assumption by the Examiner to state, above, "Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col. 3, line 50-60).

The Examiner also asserts on Wilkins's behalf that she has invented a mount which "carries" adhesive on it : (Office Action 23rd May, 2005) :

Quote : "Wilkins also teaches a method for securing a first material to a second material comprising releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material (F) which is well known to be paper in the adhesive art, with an adhesive carried by the first surface and securing the second surface to a second material (1) without adhesive"

Let us examine this.

First, referring to Fig 5, (Col 4, line 30) Wilkins attaches her protective sheet, if any, to the BACK of the invented cling sheet using that very property, cling, to protect the cling properties of the invented sheet. She proposes adhesive not be used for this.

Second, the "cling" BACK of the invented sheet being thus burdened with the (paper) protection, the FRONT side of the invented sheet, E, is the one over which indicia has been printed and which, as a result, has no cling properties.

The adhesive she mentions is NOT applied to the FRONT of the sheet. The front is opaque (Wilkins says so 6 times) and so must face "outwards". So, if the backing paper is removed from the back of the invented sheet and the sheet is then found not to adhere to the glass – or to the actual, uncovered original picture itself –tacky adhesive is used as a "band-aid" ON THE CLING BACK of the sheet. The Wilkins sentence relating to this optional use of adhesive looks like an afterthought to the specification.

2. Whether claims 1, 4-8, 16-18 and 41 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803) as stated by the Examiner at item 10, Office Action of May 25th, 2005 and maintained in Office Actions of November 3rd, 2006 and 16th April 2006.

Examiner : " Wilkins , as discussed above, fails to teach that the mount arrangement comprise a plurality of mounts. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Wilkins by providing the carrier to have thereon a plurality of mounts..."

The Examiner bases his rejection of these claims on his understanding that Wilkins has invented a mount, which she hasn't, as above.

The Applicant's invention, it will be appreciated, requires more than one of the described small mounts to achieve the stated aim – of securely mounting a page of paper on glass. When first thought of, the present mount was indeed much larger and was intended to be the same size as the paper to be mounted but, with experimentation, it was found that a plurality of a much smaller mount was a marked improvement.

Many such inventions refer to a plurality of the invented item, often for such simultaneous use, the benefit being achieved through their interaction. The Applicant respectfully requests that the board accept the present term relating to the present invention, especially since, being a mount, it has nothing to do with the art referred to.

3. Whether claims 14-15 and 31-32 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803) as stated by the Examiner at item 13, Office Action of May 25th, 2005 and maintained in Office Actions of November 3rd, 2006 and 16th April 2006.

Here, the Examiner rejects as non-original, the discovery, as part of the development of the present mount, of the optimum range of dimensions and in so doing would seek to remove a reasonable part of the protection sought.

As the Wilkins art is clearly irrelevant to the present application, it is also not relevant to imply that it might inform the selection of optimum dimensions for the present mount. Indeed, the Examiner's obviousness statements here seem to imply that, if anyone, such as Wilkins, has used PVC for their stated purpose, this informs the possibility of reduced sizes and also implies that no other inventor may reasonably define his invention in part by including reference to preferred, discovered, sizes.

Wilkins has no mount. Therefore it is too tenuous to suppose that someone reading her invention, might be doubly informed –

1. to make a mount instead of her single cling sheet and
2. to make particular sizes due to Wilkins.

With respect, this is a rejection too far.

4. Whether claims 1 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Treglown (Application GB2333050 "**Blue Tabs**") as stated by the Examiner at item 7, Office Action of November 3rd, 2006 and maintained in Office Action of 16th April 2006.

This art, a copy of which is in the "Evidence" pages, sets out "to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape."

The inventors sought a non-porous flexible film to use as a barrier to prevent staining and damage, by mastics, to the back of posters. At no time does the application refer to the invention as anything but a barrier device with a means of fixing this to the back of the poster. The non-porous film, it is said, could be PVC, Polyethylene or other plastics.

Neither does this art anywhere refer to mounting a poster on glass. Indeed, the whole invention claims its use for application to the REAR of a poster, for the purposes of protecting said poster when mastic is used to mount the poster on a WALL or a similar surface. To quote : "As shown in Fig 2, the tabs 3 are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface, such as a door or ceiling for example"

The words, "window" or "glass" or, importantly, "cling" never appear in this art, which concerns itself solely with facilitating the use of mastics.

In view of the above, plus the fact that the PVC referred to as one of several possible plastics to be used in the tabs is not attributed any cling properties, the Appellant contends that it is too tenuous to suppose that the present application, which is invented as a new way to attach posters to, principally, glass, is informed by such a device for improving the use of a quite different mounting medium on walls or doors.

The Applicants in Treglown have not set out to solve the same problems, have not specified the same materials or use of these materials.

The Appellant believes that the keyword search having produced this art, the Examiner should, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112 para 6, recognise the difference between the intended uses and the structures of the two inventions and grant the present application recognition of the inventive step it represents.

NB : There is not now, in the present application, any reference to, or admission of, the properties of PVC such as were added following a phone conference with the Examiner.

The Appellant hopes that the Board, examining the intentions of the inventors, the intended uses of the devices and the resulting structures, will agree that the present application is not unpatentable over either Treglown or Wilkins and indeed, may go forward to grant.

Claims Appendix

There follows a copy of the claims involved in the appeal, namely :

Claim	I
Claims	4-9
Claims	14-18
Claims	25-28
Claims	31-41

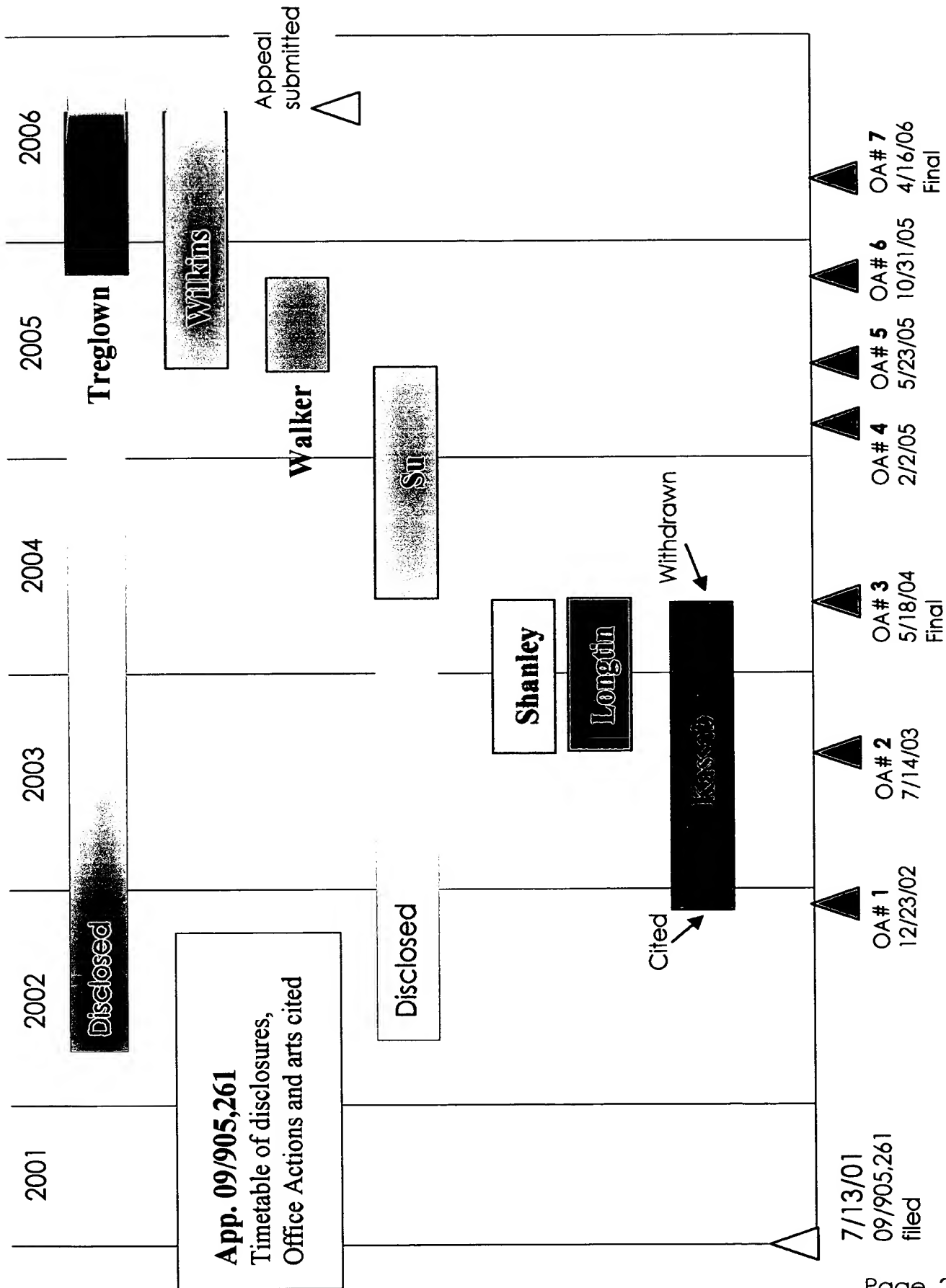
Evidence Appendix

This appendix contains the following items of evidence :

1. For information, the chronology of the current and other cited arts is shown in 2 pages in this section : pp 20 & 21
2. Present Application : (09/905,261) Publication Date : July 18, 2001 : 9 pages
3. Wilkins's US patent, 6038803, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection, 23rd May, 2005 : 7 pages.
4. Treglowan's abandoned UK application, GB2333050, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection 29th October, 2005 : 10 pages

Chronology of Transactions

Inventor	Cited art title	Number	Date	Date cited	Rejection withdrawn	NOTES
Kassab, P.K.	Static cling intermediary	6,258,200	7/10/2001	Non-final OA#1 12/23/2002	5/18/2004	Longtin And Shanley cited in Kassab
Longtin, A.G.	Piggyback assembly of static cling decal, intermediate layer and adhesive web	5,334,431	2/8/1994	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	Kassab Maintained, Longtin, Shanley cited
Shanley, T.M.	For use by personnel of vehicle and equipment service organizations, manufactured, partially preprinted, service invoice record forms, having piggyback vinyl static cling customer service information labels are provided, for completion of all respective service	5,403,025	4/4/1995	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	" " "
Su, C-F	Adhesive plate assembly for sheet object	5,462,782	10/31/1995	Non-final OA#3 5/18/2004	5/23/2005	Kassab, Longtin, Shanley objections withdrawn. Su cited: first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant
				Final Rej'ct'n OA#4 02/02/2005		: Su maintained, no new cited arts
Wilkins, F.E.	Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays	6,038,803	3/21/2000	Non-final OA#5 5/23/2005		Rejections of Su withdrawn. Wilkins and Walker now cited
Walker, M.R.	Wrap film dispenser:film cutter	GB2272682	5/25/1994	" "	?	
Treglown, L.A.	Blue tabs	GB2333050	7/14/1999	Non-final OA#6 10/31/2005		Treglown first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant. Rejection of Walker withdrawn?
page 21				Final Rej'ct'n OA#7 4/17/2006		No new cited arts. Examiner sustains Wilkins, Treglown objections



Related Proceedings Appendix

None

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 333 050 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 14.07.1999

(21) Application No 9800265.2

(22) Date of Filing 08.01.1998

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(51) INT CL⁶
A47G 1/17

(52) UK CL (Edition Q)
B2E EM
A4X X14

(56) Documents Cited
GB 2320448 A GB 2207350 A

(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition Q) A4X XU25 X14 , B2E EM
INT CL⁶ A47G 1/17
Online: WPL, JAPIO, EPODOC

(54) Abstract Title
Blue tabs

(57) A Blue Tab 3(Fig 3) is applied to a poster 5(Fig 3) or other items made from paper or other absorbent material, to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty 7(Fig 3) or sticky tape. The Tab is a non-porous piece of flexible film where a relatively thin layer of pressure sensitive adhesive has been applied to one surface 14(Fig 4). The Tab may be of any pre-formed shape but, preferably, it will have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges. The backing sheet 12 (Fig 4) to which the Tab is releasably secured, provides a combined carrier for the tab and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust and dirt. The tabs may be formed from PVC or polyethylene.

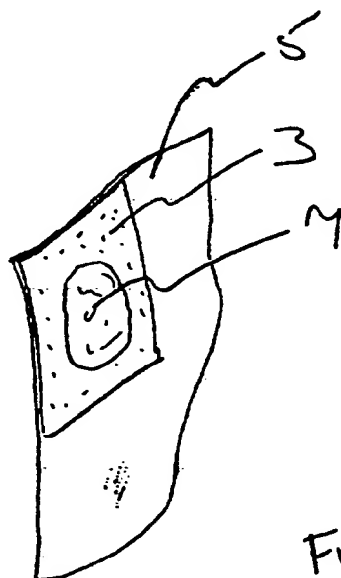


FIG 3

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

At least one of these pages has been prepared from an original which was unsuitable for direct photoreproduction.

GB 2 333 050 A

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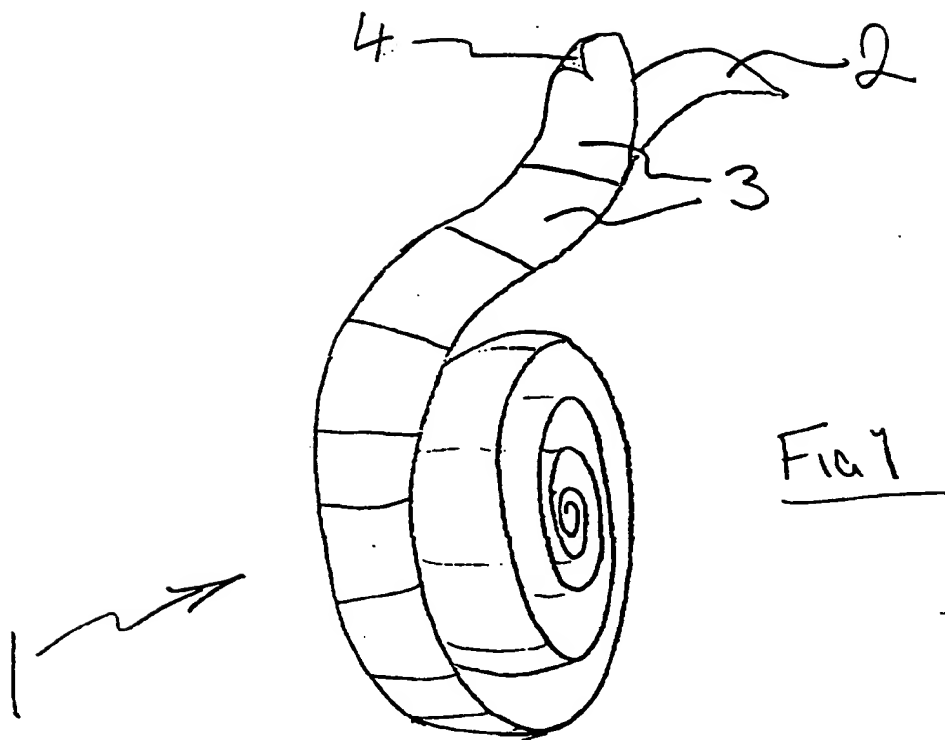
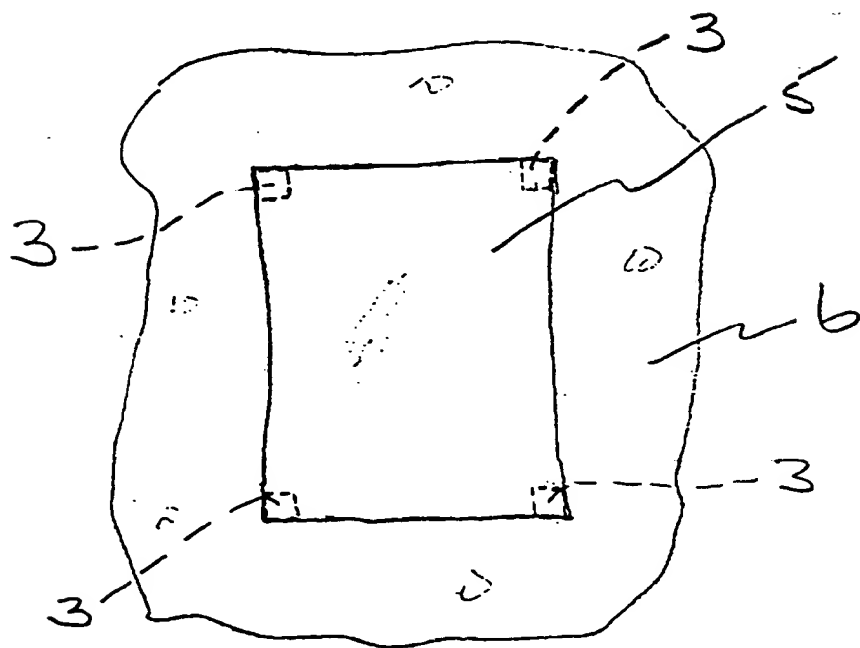


Fig 1

Fig 2



2/2

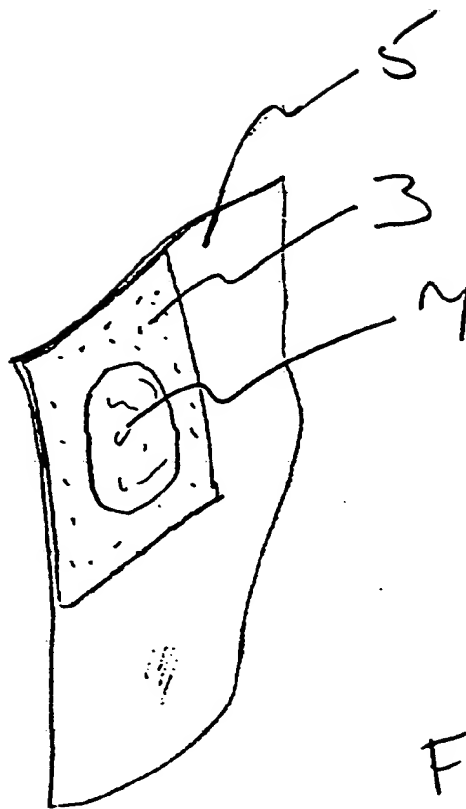
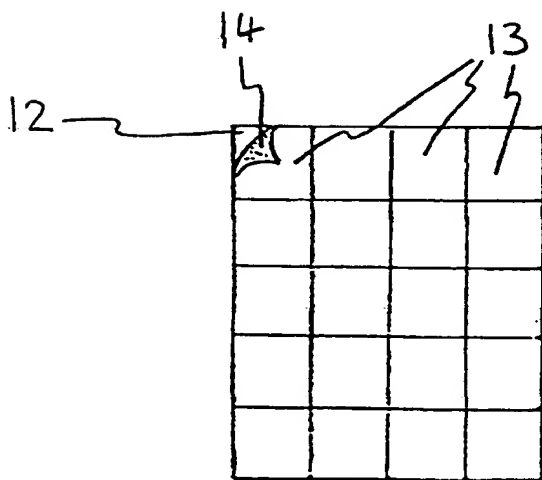


FIG 3



11

FIG 4

MOUNTING POSTERS

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to articles of the kind which generally carry printed or hand-applied matter, which may be of an artistic, promotional or informative nature. In most cases the articles are formed of sheets of paper or thin card, but less commonly, they may be of other flexible materials. For convenience, such articles will be collectively referred to herein simply as "posters".

BACKGROUND

In schools, homes and offices posters are frequently secured to a wall or other surface for display. In the past, means of attachment such as drawing pins and adhesive tape have been used, but these cause damage either to the poster itself and/or the surface to which it is attached.

In recent years it has become commonplace to hang posters using pieces of adhesive putty interposed between the rear of the poster and the surface. However, in the case of posters of a porous nature the putty tends to be absorbed into the poster so that any attempt to remove the putty or move the

poster can result in damage to the poster.

The present invention seeks to provide a new and inventive means of securing posters to a surface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention proposes a method of attaching a poster to a surface which comprises the steps of:

- peeling pre-shaped protective elements from a protective backing sheet, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are releasably secured to said backing sheet;
- applying said elements to the rear of a poster at selected mutually spaced positions such that said elements become attached thereto by means of said pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
- attaching said poster to a surface using lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

The invention further provides a poster having pre-shaped protective elements applied to the rear of said poster at selected mutually spaced positions, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are attached to said poster, said poster being attached to a surface by lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following description and the accompanying drawings referred to therein are included by way of non-limiting example in order to illustrate how the invention may be put into practice. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a general view of a reel of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention,

Figure 2 is a general view of a poster mounted on a wall in accordance with the invention,

Figure 3 is a detail of corner of the poster, viewed from the rear, and

Figure 4 is a front view of a sheet of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 1 there is provided a roll 1 formed of a strip 2 of a flexible material to which pressure-sensitive adhesives can be releasably secured such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE. The said material provides a combined releasable carrier and protective backing sheet to which individual tabs 3 are secured. The tabs 3 may be of any pre-formed shape, but they preferably have two adjacent straight and mutually perpendicular edges. In this example the tabs are

rectangular. The tabs 3 are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 4 applied to one surface. The said adhesive temporarily attaches the tabs 3 to the backing sheet 2 prior to use, which in turn protects the adhesive layer against contamination by dust or dirt.

As shown in Fig. 2, the tabs 3 are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall 6. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface such as a door or ceiling for example. Firstly, the required number of tabs 3 (in this case four) are peeled from the backing 2 and applied to suitable mutually spaced positions on the rear surface of the poster 5. Generally it will be convenient to mount one tab in each corner, although tabs could also be placed in other positions, particularly if the poster is large. Also, when mounting the tabs at the corners of the poster it is preferred to align two mutually perpendicular edges of the tabs with the two edges of the poster so that the rear surface of the poster is completely covered at the corners. Similarly, the other tabs are preferably aligned with one edge of the poster. This greatly assists in removal of the poster without damage (see below). The adhesive layer is thus used to permanently attach the tabs to the poster, using application of moderate pressure to ensure a good bond.

The poster is then mounted on the surface using lumps of proprietary adhesive putty 7 (Fig. 3) which are applied to the exposed non-adhesive surfaces of the tabs 3. Again moderate pressure is applied to bond the putty to the tabs, following which the poster is then applied to a wall using application of finger-pressure through the poster to ensure that the lumps of

putty become firmly bonded to the tabs and the surface of the wall. Care should be exercised to ensure that the size of the lumps and their positioning does not result in direct contact between the putty and the poster.

If required, the poster can be removed by severing the bond between the putty and either the wall and/or the tabs. By ensuring that the tabs are aligned with the edges of the poster during application thereto it is ensured that, during removal, the user grips and pulls the tabs rather than the poster alone, so that the risk of damage to the poster is reduced. The tabs serve several functions:

- They prevent the putty from being absorbed into the paper.
- They strengthen the paper and prevent it from tearing in the region of the putty.
- They form a release interface for easy separation between the putty and the tabs.

In the worst case, any putty still adhering to the tabs can be scraped off the tabs without causing damage to the poster.

As a result, the poster is undamaged and can be re-hung by applying fresh putty to the existing tabs, or fresh tabs can be applied to the rear of the poster if desired.

It will be appreciated that the roll of tabs shown in Fig. 1 is by way of illustration only. As shown in Fig. 4, the tabs could also be provided in the form of flat sheets 11, which each incorporate a number of tabs, as shown, or a single tab. The backing sheet 12 is again formed of a suitable flexible

material such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE to provide a releasable carrier for the tabs 13. In this example the tabs are again rectangular, but they could be of other shapes as discussed above. The tabs are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 14 applied to one surface to releasably secure them to the backing sheet 12 prior to use.

It will be appreciated that the features disclosed herein may be present in any feasible combination. Whilst the above description lays emphasis on those areas which, in combination, are believed to be new, protection is claimed for any inventive combination of the features disclosed herein.

* * * * *

CLAIMS

1. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to one surface by which the said pre-shaped piece is releasably secured to a protective backing sheet.
2. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1, when attached to the rear of posters or other items at mutually spaced positions, offers protection against damage that may occur to said posters and other items when using adhesive putty or sticky tape to attach said posters or other items to a wall or other surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape.
3. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 may be of any pre-formed shape, but preferably have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges.
4. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 3 which may be made from polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polythene, or any other such suitable material or a combination of these materials.
5. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 which may be made from wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or other non-stick material such as PTFE or a combination of these materials.
6. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 5 to which a pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 4, can be releasably attached, provides a combined releasable carrier and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust or dirt.
7. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.



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Claims searched: 1-7

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Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.Q): B2E (EM); A4X (X14, XU25)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A47G (1/17)

Other: Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2320448 A WEBMASTER See page 6, paragraph 6 and page 7, paragraph 2.	1-6
A	GB 2207350 A SHELTON See whole document.	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.